TORQUE OF THE TOWN

THE VOICE OF THE HOUSTON CHAPTER BMW CAR CLUB OF AMERICA

WINTER EDITION

Once in a Blue Moon

A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH NEW EVENTS

ANNUAL BANQUET INVITE & BALLOT

A GUIDE TO DRIVING AT SCHNELLFEST

TRICKS & TIPS FOR ATTENDING THE USGP

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BMW Car Club of America Houston Chapter

TORQUE OF THE TOWN

Post Office Box 56763 Houston, TX 77256-6763 www.Houston-BMWCCA.com

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THE COVER PHOTO: Truely Out of this World. *A special individual edtion of the 2019 850i takes the custimization into a whole new dimension by using meteoritic material. This one-off edtion called "The Night Sky" fits right in with BMW's tradition of using the ultimate driving maching as the ultimate canvas to turn their vehicles into works of art.*

Don't forget to follow the club on facebook to connect with chapter members and share photos from events.

A New Look in The New Year

After a year of successful events, look for more events in more areas around town to increase participation.

chris stokes
president

Is it the start of the new year already? Where did all the time go? When I was introduced to the club, the phrase I remember hearing was: "You join because of the marque, you stay because of the people". This couldn't be truer. I've met some wonderful people through this organization. I've learned a lot from each and every member I've had the opportunity to spend time with. You folks are great!

The board has been busy working with the national office to collaborate on ways to encourage more enthusiasts to join the Chapter. From topics of branding to new auto discounts, we've been pushing hard with the other chapters to ensure being a member is something special. They have their ideas and we have ours. Sometimes we agreed. Sometimes we agreed to not agree. That's par for the course when you are part of 70,000 membership strong organization. I really enjoy hearing ideas from our membership and have been blown away by the creative thinking some of our newest members have shared. I am grateful for these contributions of submitted ideas and have already put a few into motion.

A gap we are working on as well is ensuring we have more members experienced in running or hosting some of our typical events, like Autocross Program, High Speed Driving Events, Social Drives, Social Dinners, Social Outings, the Annual Dinner, Wash/Wax/Tech, etc. I would like to give more members a chance to shadow event chairs and see what all goes into these programs and events. I found this type of volunteer work helps you to fine tune your organization, leadership, and management skills. It's like a light weight MBA for FREE! But seriously, it's a great opportunity if you don't get to do this regularly in your day job. You will also learn that details do matter, especially when it comes to safety.

As we close out 2018, I want to take a moment to thank all those who participate on the board and those additional folks that have helped or hosted an event this past year. Bowling, Top Golf, Schnell Fest, Tire Rack Street Survival, Autocross, Karting, Hair of the Dog Drive, Bluebonnet Drive, Coffees, Annual Dinner, Women's Center benefit, and the effort that goes into this Newsletter.

As we go into 2019, we will continue to try new types of events to see if we can encourage more of our membership to come out and meet each other. Some of these are already listed later in this newsletter, but may have just the month identified. The reason is that final negotiations were not complete by the time the newsletter went to publication. As always, please check the Chapter website (http://www.houston-bmwcca.com/) for up to date event details. We also try and post all the events via Facebook as well.

As a parting comment, we are working with the national office on some branding updates that will see us purchasing a new tent and flags. We've also enlisted the help from a local artist to assist us with revamping our chapter logo to take on a slightly new form that aligns better to the club branding approach. We hope to have the updated logo ready by Spring.
If you have an idea, no matter how big or small, please share it.
Email: president@houston-bmwcca.com.

I'm looking forward to 2019 and meeting more of the wonderful people that make up our membership.

TORQUE OF THE TOWN
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Club Calendar of Events

A list of upcoming driving opportunities and social events.

January

1.12 Coffee Meet @ Cedar Creek Cafe
1.12 Escape Room @ City Center
1.19 Annual Dinner @ Houston Racquet Club
1.27 Autocross #1 @ Houston Police Academy
1.23 - 27 Houston Auto Show @ NRG Center

February

2.2 German Bowling Tournament @ Del Mar Lanes
2.9 Coffee Meet @ Cedar Creek Cafe
2.17 Autocross #2 @ Houston Police Academy
TBD Kart Prix Event #1

March

3.9 Coffee Meet @ TBD
3.16 Autocross Practice @ Houston Police Academy
3.17 Autocross @ Houston Police Academy

THE BOSS OF THE FUTURE: *BMW debuted their vision for the future of mobility at the LA Auto Show by unveiling the lastest vision vehicle, the iNext. This is the first vision car enabled with all of BMW's strategic innovation fields: Autonomous driving, Connectivity (5G), Electrification and Services. This is true look at the future of driving pleasure.*

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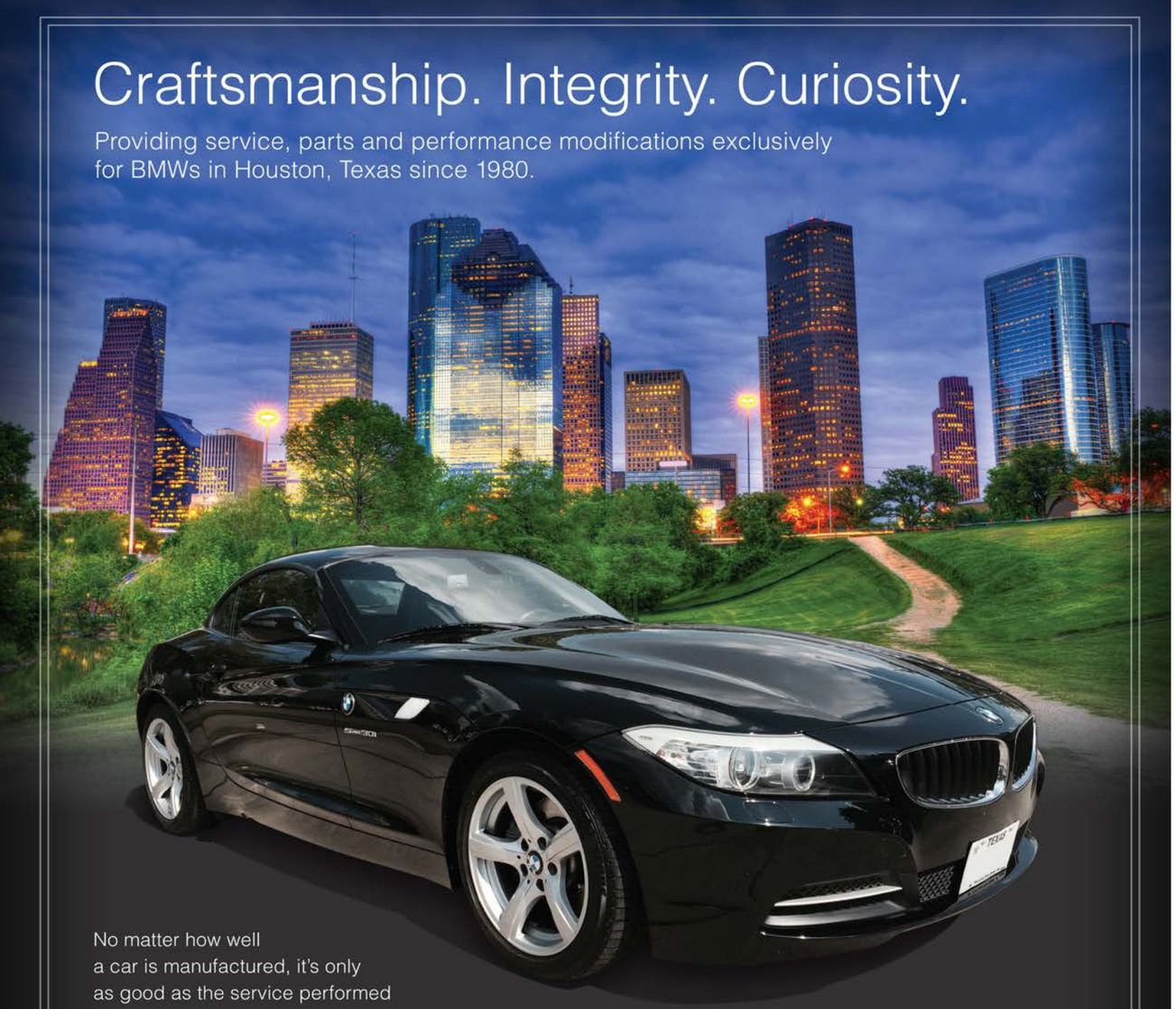

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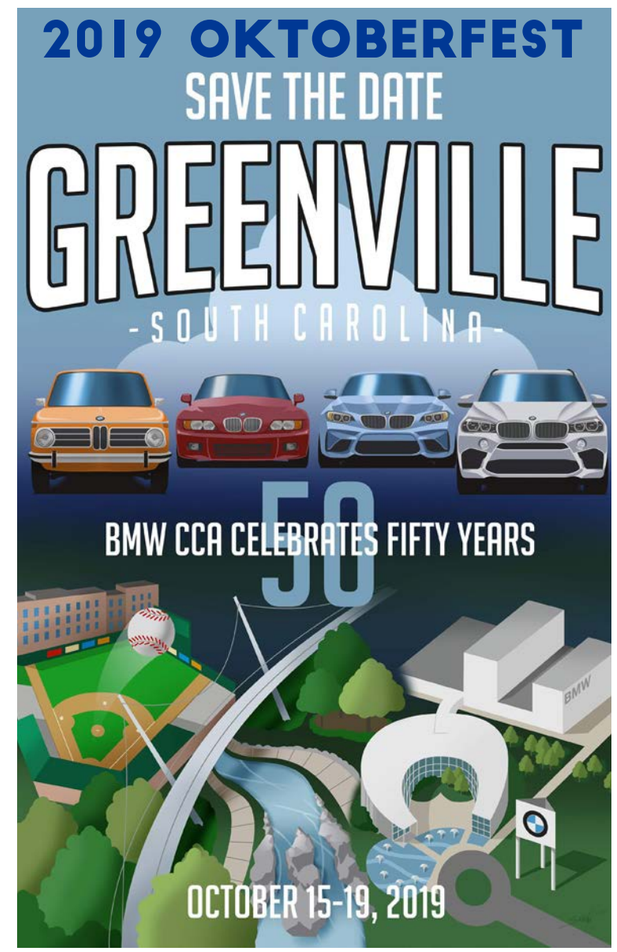

Planning for FUN!

New Social Chair fills up club calander

The Houston Chapter is happy to announce Micheal Anastasio has accepted the position of Social Chair. The Board would like to thank Jennifer Ridgeway for serving as the Social Chair this year and her contribution to the club. Members like Jennifer help make each event the Houston chapter organizes successful.

Micheal wasted no time getting the events for the first quarter of the 2019 year organized. Be sure to check the website to register for the following upcoming events:

The Escape Room @ City Center - Jan 12, 2019
Following the coffee meet, come join in on a one-of-a-kind adventure with fellow club members as we work together to solve challenging puzzles to break out of a locked room.

The Houston Auto Show - Jan 23, 2019
Come check out what is the latest and greatest in the Automotive Industry at the NRG Center.

The German Auto Club Bowling Tournament
Last year the Mercedes club took the win, this year we are looking for some talented bowlers to help win the trophy this year. The club is also looking to host a practice event.
Registration Deadline: Feb.1, 2019

TAKATA AIR BAG RECALL

EVERY OWNER MATTERS

It doesn't matter if you are the first owner or the next owner, the Houston Chapter wants every owner to be safe while enjoying the open roads around town in their Bavarian Machine. Older vehicles, operated in high humidity areas make up the highest risk BMW models for potential air bag failure.

If you or a friend own an older model BMW (2000-2006) please visit bmwusa.com/safety-recall.html or call 844-468-4752 to check if your vehicle is in need of repair. The repair takes only a few hours and dealers will work with owners to make the trip as inconvenient as possible to owners. If repairs needed, contact one of the local Houston BMW dealers to schedule an appointment for the FREE repair.

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Have an idea for an article?

All members are encouraged to submit ideas for articles or full articles with photographs to the newsletter e-mail.

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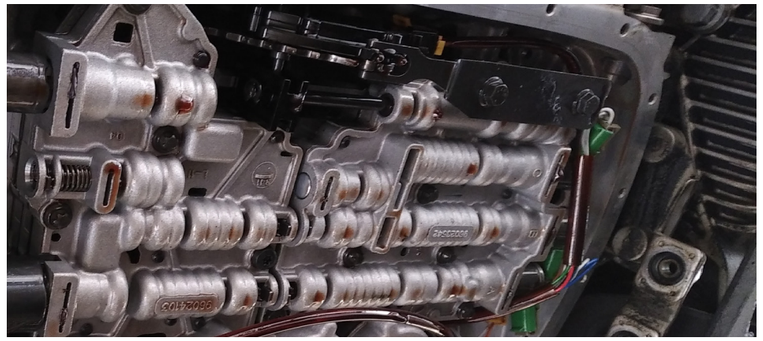
TECH TIP

To Change the Oil or Not to Change the Oil? That's the Transmission Question



This issue, Tech Advisor Jeff Otten explains the benefits of doing a X5 automatic transmission oil change.

This article chronicles maintenance on our 2005 X5 3.0 with a GM automatic transmission. The automatic in the E53 X5 generally works well and is a good fit for this type of vehicle. It is called an A5S 390R transmission and has 5 speeds. Our car has about 176k as of this article. This X5 is an X-drive version so the ratio of front to rear power changes with the driving conditions.

X-Drive: the all wheel drive system BMW utilizes in vehicles. This system adapts based on changing driving conditions to redirect power to each axle. Works with ABS and DSC.

The factory recommendation for this vehicle for the automatic transmission requires maintenance at 100,000 miles with a filter change. These transmissions were built with Texaco ETL 8072B fluid which is no longer available. This fluid is a brown fluid different from normal red transmission fluid. Doing some Internet searches reveals the consensus that this a good fluid but nothing special compared to other synthetics available. When I changed the oil the first time BMW dealers were selling Valvoline Dexron 6 fluid to go in these transmissions. When built, the GM specification was Dexron 4. The main difference in the fluids is that Dexron 6 is formulated for better mileage, with a lower viscosity. GM normally considers all new fluids to be backward compatible. However, lower viscosity seems contrary to friction plate function. Automatics rely on friction plate transfer of the forces to work. When the plates are worn out, the transmission will slip.

Searching for fluid recommendations, I found for BMW automatics two (2) consistent recommendations, Redline D4 or Amsoil Multi ATF. It seemed for ZF brand the Amsoil had good results. On my Suburban I used Mobil 1 ATF. The Mobil 1 product did not seem to be recommended for the BMW/GM transmission so I went with Redline D4. This, of course, is not a BMW approved the recommendation.

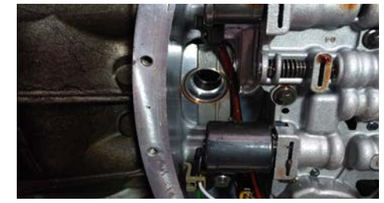
Bentley Book: An automotive manual publisher, with specific books for popular BMW Models and other car brands.

For the transfer case, it works by a solenoid applying pressure to a friction plate to divert power from the rear to the front of the car. The oil is a special oil that there are no equivalents sold. The BMW oil is about $50.00 per liter (with club discount). The good thing is it takes only about .8 liter so only one bottle is needed. For the 2005 X5, this fluid is supposed to be changed at every 50k miles. I don't think most dealers know this, so it likely does not get changed this often. Also when you change the fluid the computer is supposed to be reset, as the friction of new fluid is higher than old fluid. I had my car reset once at the dealer (cub tech event, thanks to BMW North). The BMW transmission has a drain plug in the pan and a fill plug in the body. The transmission has to warm when filling the last amount. The Bentley manual says the fluid should be 85 to 120F for filling. Total transmission capacity is now listed at 9.0 liters (9.5 qt) with the torque converter and 8.0 liters (8.5 qt) without. My experience is for a pan drain only about 4.5 quarts, for the filter and pan drain about 8 to 8.25 quarts. So plan on 5 quarts for pan drain and 9 quarts for filter replacement. Be ready with 2 drain pans.

2 x 12's: Jacks and lift for the car. Purchasable at harbor freigh tools.

The X5 is pretty easy to drain and fill. To change the filter the pan has to be removed, it will be necessary to disconnect the mid exhaust pipe hanger to allow the pan bolts and pan to be dropped. This time I used a Quick Jack to lift the car but had enough room last time just putting the car on 2 x 12's, since the car is fairly high already. For passenger cars, if you don't have a lift, support the car on four (4) jack stands to get it high enough. It's important to get the car close to level. When I removed the pan the filter fell out. The seal was worn and loose, no longer a tight fit. Hence the slipping cause was now known. Unfortunately, I had already bought the same filter so put it in any way. Had I run the filter only 50k, I would have not had a problem.

The original seal is a different and better design. Original BMW filter kit is about $120 though. After-market Meistersatz was about $35 and includes new bolts, pan gasket, filter, and seals, so after reading reports on forums I bought this one again. Since I had some cold slipping, and after some Internet searching, I bought a bottle of Lucas Transmission Fix, about $12 (auto parts or Wal-Mart). According to the website it can be used for preventative maintenance and will help to stop slipping and seal leaks. Normally I don't use "snake oil" and I don't know if I would put this in if I had it to do over.



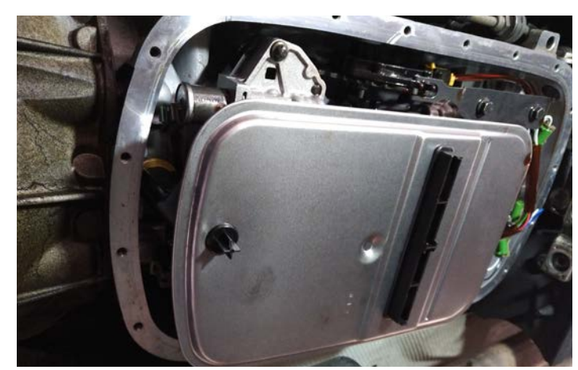
LEFT: *Bore where filter seal and stem inserts after seal is removed. Make sure not to scratch the bore, which is aluminum.*

The original BMW/GM filter seal is difficult to remove. One Internet trick is to use a 1/2" PVC pipe nipple to thread into it, then pull it out. I used a right angle bend screwdriver and was able to get it out. The Meistersatz seal does not have a metal external can so is easier to install. The fluid from the transmission and the transfer case should be drained warm. Nitrile gloves (Harbor Freight) are suggested. The transmission plugs have integrally molded seals, so should be re-useable. A small amount of RTV silicone gasket sealer can be used if in doubt. The transfer case uses copper crush washers, they seem to be an odd size compared to generic assortments so remember to pick these up from the dealer, PN 07119963308 (18mm x 22mm CU), two (2) required.

Nitrile Gloves: Rubber gloves 2.0. More resistant to chemicals and less likely to tear when working on the car

Clean the gasket surfaces well. A gasket scraper and a wipe with brake cleaner work well. The new gasket is aluminum with a rubber insert and seemed to have a light brown coating, so no additional gasket sealer was used. New bolts M6 X 1MM were provided, I used them and put a drop of blue Loctite on each one. Tighten evenly with a cross pattern in stages. Final torque should be 10 Nm (90 in-lb).

Brake Cleaner: Not just for brakes. Good to keep in the garage to clean greasy car parts.



LEFT: *New filter installed. Seal holds it temporarily then pan restrains it against the plastic pieces. Filter inlet is rectangular piece.*

TOP: *Magnet which will be covered in a paste of metal particles. On the first change it was much dirtier. Note fluid is fairly red still, indicating good condition.*

I flushed a small amount of fluid through the transfer case then put the plug in. Fill until a small stream comes out, and let run till about 1/16" size stream then put the plug in.

Fill the automatic transmission till the fluid runs out then put the plug in. Then start the car. Let it run a couple minutes, then shift through all gears with the brake held on. Monitor the transmission temperature, the Raytek Autopro Laser Thermometer works well for this. The fluid will fill the torque converter so the pan level will go down. Once it warms a little, add fluid quick enough to keep the temperature in the range. I found it heats pretty quickly so do final level at close to 120 F. Check the temperature in several places on the pan and transmission housing. Once it's full to temperature put the plug in, with a small stream coming out. Do not remove the plug again with engine off, or a lot of fluid will gush out.

The Lucas additive is very thick, it was divided part into the fill bottle with the Redline fluid. The transmission now has about 3k more miles and drives perfectly. Next time I will use a better filter, maybe BMW, and probably just fill with Redline D4.

After doing this work, I think the idea that dirty fluid is better and longer lasting is a myth. Like all mechanical devices, proper lubrication will reduce wear and prolong life. A fluid drain and fill at 30 to 50k miles is not unreasonable and filter changes allow more residual particles to be removed, so has to reduce wear.

Better to have clean fluid replaced at reasonable intervals.

LEFT: *Filling transfer case. Bottle is Sta-Lube and pump available at auto parts stores. Fits conveniently under car.*

bmw cca 19th annual dinner banquet

6:30 – 9:30 PM January 18 at Houston Racquet Club

Tickets available @ www.houstonbmwcca.com for $25

social hour

Includes 2 drink tickets & Light appetizers

evening entertainment

Ice breaker games	Teen Street Survival Presentation
Introduction of 2019 Houston Chapter Club Board	Oktoberfest Trip Invitation
Car Care Presentation from Griot's Garage, **John Keeling**	Autocross First Place Winner Recognition

Raffle Prizes and Evening Gifts

plated dinner menu

APPETIZERS

HOUSTON RACQUET CLUB SALAD

Arugula & Spinach with Dry Cranberries, Toasted Almonds, Manchego Cheese and Pickled Red Onions with Lemon Vinaigrette

MAIN COURSE

CHICKEN WELLINGTON

Baked, layered with Mushroom Duxelles and rolled in flaky puff pastry, served with Grilled Young Vegetables, finished with Pinot Noir Veal Demi Glace

BRAISED PULLED SHORT RIBS

Braised, served on a bed of Yukon Gold Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, and finished with a Pan Gravy

DESSERT

Molten Chocolate Center Cake **or** Pecan Ball

Vegan, Vegetarian upon request and a $10 option for Young Guests Meals

2019 BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

For nominations contact the Election Committee:
Albert Ball: NOMINATIONS@HOUSTON-BMWCCA.COM

There are 2 ways to cast your ballot for the 2019 Chapter Elections

BALLOT DUE BY: 1.19.2019

Bring a printed ballot to the Annual Banquet	Email your ballot to nominations@houston-bmwcca.com

2019 Executive Committee Ballot

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Chapter and will maintain the Chapter's accounts, financial status, and expenses. Additional responsibility includes preparing financial statements which will be presented at board meetings.

Candidate:

☐ Jeff Compton

I've been a CPA since 1980 who just joined BMW CCA. I have some non-profit board experience.
I understand from being a Porsche Owner and PCA LSR member that lots of help is needed to make a club fun and valuable.

☐ _____ WRITE IN _____

Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining full and complete minutes of Chapter board meetings, record the minutes at board meetings, prepare correspondence as directed, assist with maintaining membership roster.

Candidate:

☐ Diane Albrecht

I joined the Houston Chapter because I wanted to go driving with a group of BMW enthusiasts. Now after participating in several Ofest trips I have met many wonderful members. As secretary I help keep the club organized when planning events.

☐ _____ WRITE IN _____

2019 Nominations of Appointed Board Positions

Social Media

☐ _____ WRITE IN _____

Looking for someone to manage the clubs social media accounts and assist with marketing club actives.

BMW CCA MEMBERSHIP #:_____

SHIFTING *in to* 2019

For more information check out the club facebook page or facebook groups. All event registration is handled through the club website, where additional details are posted.

annual club events

jan feb mar

Hair of the Dog Club Banquet
Autocross Lunch

april may june

Teen Street Survival
Blue Bonnet Drive

july aug sept

Night at the Museum
Summer Night Drive

oct nov dec

Ofest Teen Street Survival
Fredericksburg Drive

TO BE *scheduled*

Wash, Wax and Tech Session at Local Dealership
German Dinner

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

We meet monthly to share stories over coffee and breakfast

Coffee & Cars

track time

MONTHLY AUTOCROSS

Check out the detailed autocross schedule on page 21
Don't forget we take the Summer off!

SCHNELLFEST

Driving Events Coordinator, Richard Lo provides insight on how to get involved with track driving on page 20

Season 1 of the Kart Prix

This will be our first full season of karting. After hosting 2 successful events in 2018, look for a series of events next year

LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN

US GRAND PRIX OCT 19 - 21

A weekend of drama and excitement: The US Grand Prix awards both Redemption and Disappointment

TOP: *Drivers, Kimi Räikkönen (Ferrari), and Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes F1) celebrate Räikkönen's first win in Austin. Räikkönen heads to Sauber F1 next year.*
BOTTOM: *Coming out of turn 18, Kimi Räikkönen chases down Lewis Hamilton. Even though Hamilton won pole, Räikkönen had a faster race pace.*

Returning for the seventh time, Formula 1 brings into Austin a season-long battle between Mercedes driver, Lewis Hamilton and Scuderia Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel and with only four races left in the season, every lap mattered. This is my second year of going to see the race and I enjoyed another weekend filled with great racing. Like most sports, seeing the cars on the track in person is nothing like watching on TV.

Located 15 miles southeast of Austin in the rolling hills which provide iconic elevation changes throughout the 3.41-mile track, The Circuit of the Americas track design provides unique challenges to drivers and exciting racing for spectators. Nicknamed CoTA by enthusiasts, racing series of all levels from Formula 1 to BMW M Days host events throughout the year at this venue for all levels of drivers.

Millions and millions of dollars go into funding the development of a formula 1 team. Tracks are analyzed and reanalyzed but a lucky start is all it takes to change the narrative of a weekend.

Through 17 different tracks, Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel battled to be the first to 5 world titles, the third driver to accomplish this sense formula 1 started. Their 18th fight took place in Austin. Hamilton dominated at the previous race in Suzuka, Japan growing his lead over Vettel by an additional 25 points. This race was a must win for Vettel to hold onto to any chance of winning the world championship. Hamilton won last year in Austin after taking pole in qualifying. To win the race, you need to qualify well. In order for Hamilton to repeat his win in Austin, it started with a strong performance in qualifying. However, something totally different happened.

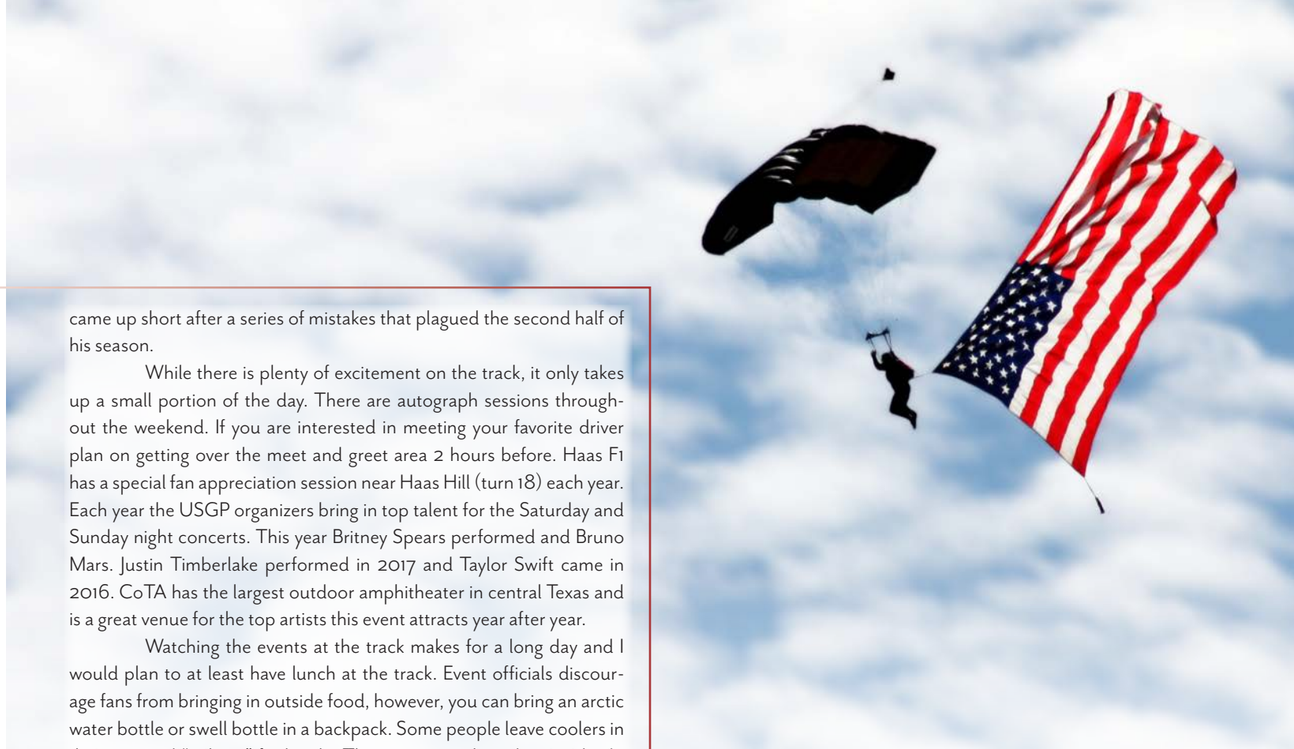
Hamilton did take pole but another accomplished driver took the top step at the end of a very damp weekend. Kimi Räikkönen. His first win in 112 races. Hamilton settled for 3rd and Vettel took 4th. The 2018 title did not get decided in Austin this year that would happen later in Mexico. While Räikkönen kept Hamilton from scoring the necessary points he needed to clinch his fifth world title, Vettel once again came up short after a series of mistakes that plagued the second half of his season.

While there is plenty of excitement on the track, it only takes up a small portion of the day. There are autograph sessions throughout the weekend. If you are interested in meeting your favorite driver plan on getting over the meet and greet area 2 hours before. Haas F1 has a special fan appreciation session near Haas Hill (turn 18) each year. Each year the USGP organizers bring in top talent for the Saturday and Sunday night concerts. This year Britney Spears performed and Bruno Mars. Justin Timberlake performed in 2017 and Taylor Swift came in 2016. CoTA has the largest outdoor amphitheater in central Texas and is a great venue for the top artists this event attracts year after year.

Watching the events at the track makes for a long day and I would plan to at least have lunch at the track. Event officials discourage fans from bringing in outside food, however, you can bring an arctic water bottle or swell bottle in a backpack. Some people leave coolers in their cars and "tailgate" for lunch. There are several vendors inside. At the track, there is your typical stadium food (hot dogs, chicken fingers, hamburgers, French fries, nachos) around the track. In addition, in the central area, several food trucks come into the track. My favorite is the BBQ mac cheese with brisket or the brisket nachos. Both make for excellent lunch in between track sessions and pair nicely with a cold beer. There are 2 beer pavilions, 1 by turn 18 which is near the food trucks and the second is back by turn 4. They have about 10-15 beers on tap and the selection is different at each location so if you are looking for something specific on a hot day it might be worth the hike to get a good craft beer. Also in the pavilion, there are several tables and picnic tables and fans to sit at away from the sun.

One downside to CoTA is how far it is from Austin, all the hotel options are at least 30 minutes away. Some club members like to stay in Bastrop but there is not much to do in the evening. I recommend staying off of I35 in Austin. These hotels are more centrally located which gives more options for dining and access to off-track events throughout the weekend, especially if you are not interested in staying for the concerts on Saturday and Sunday night. My Dad and I skipped the concert on Saturday night and opted to head back to the hotel for dry clothes and a warm shower then headed out for dinner in Austin. While out for dinner, we found an off-track F1 Experience shop that had discounted hats and shirts from previous seasons and races that were heavily discounted compared to track prices.

Formula 1 will return to Austin again next year. The event has moved to the first weekend in November, which means you should plan for hot weather or cold weather or wet weather. There is no telling what kind of fall weather we will have next year in Texas. I would definitely pack rain gear and shoes that will get you through the mud if it does rain. There are lots of grassy areas to watch the race and they get very muddy with a couple of days of repeated rain.



TOP: *Heading into the "S"s Hamilton is followed by Fernando Alonso (McClaren) during a practice session. Alonso has retired from Formula 1 and will race in sports car series and the Indy 500 next season.*
BOTTOM: *Formula 1's only US Team, Haas F1 recognizes the US GP as their home GP. Drivers and Team Principal do a special meet and greet at Haas Hill.*

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A Driving Experience for All Levels

Driving Events Chair, Richard Lo offers his advice on how to get involved in track events. In 2019 Houston Chapter members will be eligible to participate in two events hosted at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin. This is a great opportunity to feel the limits of your Bavarian machine or improve driving skills while receiving instruction from knowledgeable experienced instructors.

What is Austin Schnell Fest?
"Schnell" is the German word for "fast". The Austin Schnell Fest is a Driver Education event for novice to advance drivers held at the Circuit of the Americas (COTA) Formula 1 racetrack located in Austin, TX. This event is sponsored by the Houston BMW CCA Chapter and the Lone Star, Hill Country, and Maverick Porsche Club of America (PCA) Regions. The event is run under PCA Driving Education minimum standards.

When is Austin Schnell Fest?
Schnellfest is scheduled for **June 8-9** and **September 21-22**.

Who can participate in Schnell Fest?
Anyone 18 years or older in good health with a valid driver's license.

What do you need to participate?
1.In order to participate your car must have a technical inspection not more than 30 days prior to the event. The car owner must certify that the car is safe to run on the track and that the car has been inspected by a dealer or other reputable automobile repair facility. Both a representative of the inspecting dealer/repair shop and the owner must complete the Technical Inspection Form.
2.A "K", "M", or "SA" helmet with a Snell certification of 2015 or newer.
3.Sign up and pay the registration fee at https://clubregistration.net

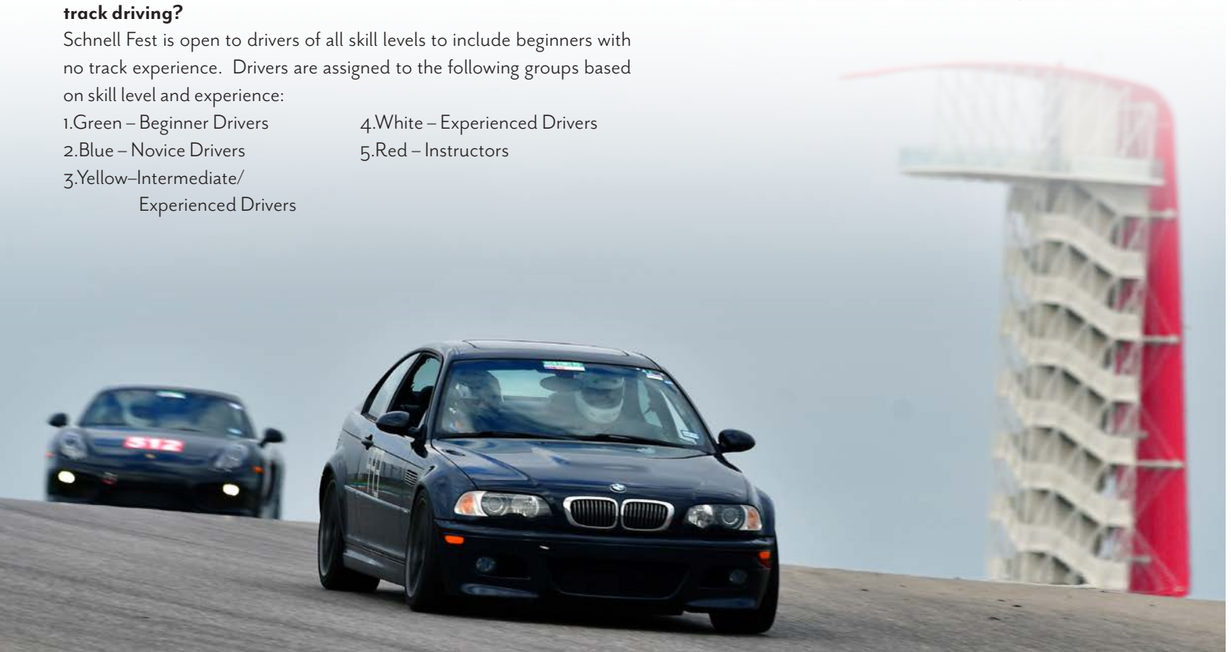
I have never participated in a track event, where can I learn about track driving?
Schnell Fest is open to drivers of all skill levels to include beginners with no track experience. Drivers are assigned to the following groups based on skill level and experience:

1.Green – Beginner Drivers
2.Blue – Novice Drivers
3.Yellow–Intermediate/ Experienced Drivers
4.White – Experienced Drivers
5.Red – Instructors

How many days is Schnellfest? How long am I on track each day?
Schnell Fest is either a two or three day event. Each day you will have 4 driving session no less than 20 minutes each and two classroom instructional sessions.

Are there instructors available?
All participants are assigned an instructor regardless of skill level. Beginner and non-solo Novice drivers will have in car instructors at all times while on track.

Is there an event website?
Yes, please visit http://austinschnellfest.clubregistration.net/



A Cone Killer Dynasty Continues

Another season has come to end. Tires are bald. Fuel tanks are empty. And more than just a few cones went into retirement after our 10 events this year. As a devoted autocrosser myself, I would like to thank our tireless, Autocross Committee for organizing another season of exceptional events. Some were wet and more were dry but every event was fun and I look forward to the 2019 season.

Be sure to check the Autocross page for updated class assignments and details regarding a new PAX class that will be available this year. The Autocross Committee looks forward to opening this class to all vehicles and drivers who are interested.

To those autocrossers that are interested in getting more involved with the events contact the Autocross Committee by emailing Chris Augustine he can provide more information on getting involved.

Congrats to all the trophy winners this year, their names are in bold!

EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2019

January 27	June 16
February 17	Sept 14: Practice
March 16: Practice	September 15
March 17	***October 26: TSS***
April 20: TSS	***October 27***
April 21	November 17
May 19	December 15

Events listed in italics are tentative

AUTOCROSS SEASON RESULTS 2018

B CLASS

1ST	**Nikola Dragojlovic**
2ND	Chris Ward
3RD	David Taylor

C CLASS

1ST	**David Taylor**
2ND	**Katie Otten**
3RD	Terri Little

D CLASS

1ST	**Josh Ronan**
2ND	**Chris Augustine**
3RD	**Danielle Meyers**

E CLASS

1ST	**Walter Phillips**
2ND	**Jeff Thomson**
3RD	**Randy Crider**

F CLASS

1ST	**Christopher Stokes**
2ND	**Aaraj Thyagaraj**
3RD	**Jeff Otten**

G CLASS

1ST	**Michael Anastasio**
2ND	Blake Lagrone

x1 CLASS

1ST	**Edward Morfe**
2ND	**Jim Hedderick**
3RD	**David Hedderick**

x2 CLASS

1ST	**Grant Farrelly**
2ND	Jeff Goji
3RD	Robert Horton

x3 CLASS

1ST	**Michael Schnetzer**
2ND	**Ricardo Barnes**
3RD	Lonnie Howell

x4 CLASS

1ST	**Mike Klaybor**
2ND	**Ken Corenti**
3RD	Ho Cheung

x5 CLASS

1ST	**Zach Taulbee**
2ND	**Kelan Captain**
3RD	**David Duxbbury**

CONE KILLER

1ST	**Christopher Stokes 31**
2ND	Jim Hedderick 28
3RD	Walter Phillips 23

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THE M STANDS FOR MOTORSPORT

articles by: katie otten photos courtesy of BMW PRESS GROUP

Nothing fun happens when you are comfortable.

Take out the plush leather seats. Remove the air conditioning. And that back seat needs to go, too. Now that you de-cluttered the cabin, insert the roll cage and safety gear. Now you have a race car but if you want to go fast, you add an M for speed. A M model BMW is the ultimate driving machine.

The M badge represents a lineage of accomplished racecars and a philosophy of precision that leads performance into the future. Founded in 1972 by BMW the M division very quickly found success with 3.0 CSL and never looked back. Here is a preview of where you can see these machines in action.

This overviews 3 of the race series the M division participates in, introducing the fundamentals of each series. I have compiled schedules of how to watch and support your favorite blue and white machines.

Take a look at where the next generation of M racecars become legends.

A Domestic Race Series for Imported Machines

A sports car series for North American residents, the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship races all take place in in the US and Canada. Sanctioned by IMSA (International Motor Sports Association) a US-based body responsible for merging the Rolex Sports Car Series with American Le Mans Series. (ALMS was part of ChampCar that came to Houston a few years back).

BMW has two factory supported teams racing, BMW Team RLL and customer team, Turner Motorsports. Team RLL competes in the GTLM class with two BMW M8 GTE cars. Turner Motorsports enters the GT Daytona class or GTD with the # 96 BMW M6 GT3.

BMW Team RLL or Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing is a racing team headquartered in both Indiana and Ohio. The team is co-owned by 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, former television talk show host David Letterman, and businessman Mike Lanigan. In 2010 BMW Team RLL won the Manufacturer and Team championship in the GT class and won all 3 titles in 2011. Their two cars are the #25 and #24. The #25 car finished 6th and the #24 car finished 8th out 9 teams in the 2018 season.

Turner Motorsport is one of the largest BMW aftermarket tuners in the US. Based in Amesbury, Massachusetts and has exclusively raced BMW models sense 1998. Turner is the second most prolific BMW privateer racing team. The first is Schnitzer Motorsports, a European based team that participates in the DTM series. The Turner Motorsport team finished 9th out of 23 teams in their class. Turner looks to bring in factory drivers for next season for stronger finishes. Historically, Turner has had strong finishes in their class. Currently, well known Ofest guest, Bill Auberlen is listed on the rost for the 2019 season.

The 2019 season starts in January. You can catch all the live action of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship on NBCSN, NBC, CNBC, NBC Sports App, and IMSA Radio. As well as stream the races with their apps. The first event of the 2019 race season is the 12 Hours of Sebring March 13-16, 2019.

More than Just Le Mans: Unique Challenges in WEC

The longest race series BMW M racing is involved in, the World Endurance Championship (WEC) organizes the worlds oldest sports car race, Le Mans. With 7 additional events over the course of 14 months, this makes the 2018/2019 season a "Super Season". The WEC started with the 6 Hours Spa followed by the 24 hours of Le Mans on 16-17 June 2018. BMW debuted the new M8 GTE at this year's Le Mans race. The series will conclude by returning back to Le Mans on 15-16 June 2019, where hopefully the M8 will perform better.

A WEC race can look very confusing to an uninformed spectator. Unlike many race series where each class is made up of similar cars and has their own track time to race, all 4 classes race at the same time in a WEC race. Which means a Le Mans prototype which is not street legal shares the track with many cars that are seen on highways around Houston. BMW does not currently build or support a race team in the Le Mans Prototype class but does race in the Le Mans GT Pro class. BMW Team MTEK represents BMW in the WEC by racing the #81 and #82 BMW M8 GTE cars. Currently, BMW is last in the manufacturer's standings, the #82 (Drivers: Farfus, Da Costa Antonio, Sims) is in 10th and the #81 car (Drivers: Tomczyk, Catsburg, Eng) is in 13th. The best finish for the #81 car was at the 6 Hours of Silverstone, taking 5th overall. The #82 car has one podium this season at the 6 Hours of Fuji finishing 2nd overall and setting the fastest lap of the race. Hopefully, the MTEK team will find success at the next event in the US.

Six titles are presented at the end of the season based on accrued points. The first two titles are world championship titles: Manufacturers' World Endurance Champion and Drivers' World Champion. A GTE Pro class champion is awarded a world cup while the points leaders in the LMP2 and GTE AM awarded a trophy each. A final Trophy is awarded to top privateer team amongst all 4 classes.

The WEC series is a great opportunity to check out young up and coming race drivers as well as more accomplished drivers. Fernando Alonso, a two time Formula 1 World Champion, who raced in the LMP1 class at the Le Mans race in June for Toyota.

The WEC race series will resume their 2018/2019 season with the only US hosted event the 1,000 Miles of Sebring on 13-15 March 2019. Velocity will broadcast races in the US. There is a Motor Trend app is available to download and stream races live.

BMW Returns to Open Wheel Racing

Powered by a motor not an engine

The ABB FIA Formula E is the first fully electric international single-seater street racing series. Hosting 12 events over a seven-month series with 11 teams with 22 drivers this 5th season will be the most competitive season yet. BMW i partnered with Andretti Racing to field 2 cars in the 2018/2019 season. This all-electric racing series offers BMW a unique testing environment to develop the technology that will be incorporated into their electric road vehicles. This will be the first season with the Gen2 car, the second iteration of a Formula E car. The batteries powering the Gen2 car are bigger and more efficient than the Gen1 model eliminating the need for a mid-race car swap this year. Each team will get the same chassis and batteries but are on their own to develop the electric motor, inverter, gearbox and cooling system.

Organizers also changed the racing format in the 2018/2019 season include the addition to the Attack Mode. Nickednamed "Mario Kart" drivers must drive over specific areas off the driving line to pick up additional boosts of power to help decrease lap time and move up in place.

The theme of the series is efficiency in all things, not just the cars. The cars are powered by 100% renewable fuel from Formula E's Glycerine Generators. The races are clustered together by region to use boat, train or road transport to move equipment. The race series uses a Michelin Pilot Sport EV2 18 inch tire, which should sound familiar because it is available to purchase for road cars. Each car receives two sets of tires for the race weekend and has a tread so no need to bring special rain tires.

Like Formula 1, there are two titles up for grabs at the end of the season, a driver's title and a constructor's title. Points are award to drivers finishing in 10th place or better. Additional points are awarded for winning pole and for fastest lap.

The race weekend schedule includes a practice session on Friday called the Shakedown. During this session, cars are operated at reduced power and use the track time to test the reliability, not performance. On Saturday during the two practice sessions team can run the cars in race mode. Qualifying is held on Saturday after the conclusion of the practice sessions. On Sunday the E-Prix begins with a standing start and lasts for 45 minutes. After the time has elapsed and the leader crosses the finish line there is one more lap until the race ends. During the E-Prix fans can vote for their favorite driver to receive a 5-second boost of power which can only be used during the second half of the race.

Race schedules vary by event and can be viewed online at www.formulae.com. Events are televised on Fox Sports and the Fox Sports app.

The perfect start for BMW Formula E driver, Antonio Felix da Costa celebrates his win at the first event in Ad Diriyah. The next event is in Marrakesh on January 12, 2019. Costa, also set the lap record during pre-season testing. Alexander Sims received penalties due to breaching technical regulations and finished 18th.

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